

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 10 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,697,836). Claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano.

The present claims now recite "a group identification for identifying plural users of the user terminal device to form a specific group." (Claims 1 and 10) As discussed beginning on page 8, line 10 of the specification, the group ID is identification information to be used when forming a specific group by the plural users of a terminal. Applicants respectfully assert that Kawano does not disclose an analogous group ID stored in an additional information section of a removable memory.

The Examiner contends Applicant's previous argument where a user switches terminals after a request is made but before the response can be sent is not supported by the claims. Accordingly, the present claims have been amended to recite "wherein, if said user requests message information from the network server and switches from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to a second terminal device compatible with the second data format before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information is converted from the first data format to the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device." (Claim 1 and 10) For example, if a user requests information from the network while using a television terminal

and then switches to using a telephone before receiving the response, the present invention will realize the user has switched to a new terminal device and send the response to the telephone in an appropriate format. Since the original request was made using a television, the response may be in a video format which is incompatible with the telephone. In this case, the present invention will convert the video format response to a format, such as audio only, which is compatible with the telephone. While Kawano does keep track of which terminal the user is logged onto, Kawano also assumes any information response is to be sent to the same terminal from which the request is made. Kawano does not discuss the situation where a user switches terminals after a request is made but before the response can be sent.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Kawano fails to meet all of the recited limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

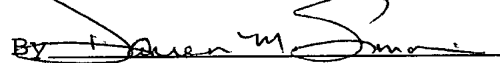
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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